(b) The CABE Sub Committee has recommended a school system which aims at providing education of a comparable quality in all categories of schools to all children irrespective of their different-backgrounds based on the principles and values enshrined in the Constitution.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Since education is the responsibility of both the Central and the State Governments, the issues raised earlier have remained under consideration.

Exam stress in JEE

1448. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a meeting of the Standing Committee of the IIT Council was held on the 5th March, 2005, to discuss the issue of stress on students caused by the Joint Entrance Examination (JEE) and for bringing out reforms therein;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) whether the Council of Boards of School Education in India also organized conference on the 1st May, 2005 of Chairmen of the School Education Boards on this issue;

(d) if so, the decisions taken thereat; and

(e) by when the process of examination reforms is likely to be initiated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. A meeting of the Standing Committee of the IIT Council was held on 5th March, 2005 to discuss, *inter-alia,* the issue of stress on students caused by JEE and for bringing out reforms in the JEE. The Directors of all the seven NTs were called upon to come out with concrete proposals for bringing about reforms in the JEE at least from the year 2006.

(c) to (e) Yes, Sir. A conference of the Boards of School Education of India was organized by Council of Boards of School Education in India on 1st May, 2005, in which discussions took place to de-stress JEE also. One of the important suggestions that came out was that the students examinations results at the end of +2 would be taken into consideration in the selection process of students for IIT.

Elementary Education Bill

†1449. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a new Bill related to elementary education is being prepared by Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is a fact that passing of the Bill in Parliament is likely to be delayed as difference of opinion is evolving amongst those working in the field of education; and

(d) if so, the areas where difference of opinion has been noticed along with the time limit set for passing the bill in the Parliament?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) and (b) Legislation in pursuance of the Constitution (Eighty Sixth)Amendment Act, which seeks to make "provision of free and compulsory education to children in the 6-14 years age group", a Fundamental Right, is under preparation.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.